

E. PALESTINE COUNCIL 11/26/18 85 N. MARKET ST. 7 PM

Mayor Cohen called the meeting to order, present was Mr. Cohen, Mr. Hall, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Todd, Mr. Walker and Mr. Yokley. Also present was Village Manager Pete Monteleone, Finance Director Traci Thompson and Clerk Misti Martin, Atty. Powers was absent. At this point Mr. Simpson made a motion to amend Res.15-2018 to remove the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. .Cohen. All in favor. The minutes of the 11/26 Development Committee and Regular meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Walker seconded by Mr. Hall. All in favor. There were no department reports or agenda items.

CLERK: Clerk Misti Martin stated the annual CRA (Community Reinvestment Area) meeting would be held on Monday December 10 at 6:30 pm prior to the regular Council meeting.

MAYOR: Acting Mayor Alan Cohen expressed his thanks to the Police & Fire Departments and all Village employees for their response to the recent power outage crisis.

MANAGER: NO REPORT

LAW DIRECTOR: NO REPORT

STREET: Mr. Walker had no report for streets but asked if the Village would be able to sue the power company for reimbursement for costs during the power outage. Manager Monteleone stated he put a call in the local rep to request reimbursement for expenditures from Ohio Edison and is awaiting a return call.

SAFETY/PARK/REC/CEM: Mr. Cohen had no report. Mr. Yokley stated he would like to have a SPRC Committee meeting to discuss how to be proactive in emergency cases such as the power outage, specifically who to look to and where to get information. Mr. Cohen agreed saying one of biggest problems was getting an appropriate response from Ohio Edison, he feels there has to be a better way to liaison with them in times of crisis and establish better lines of communication with them. Mr. Yokley stated there were other communities that had a better idea of what was going on than we did, he feels we as the village need to be able to take the lead in these situations and also educate people how to get the information and where to go when something like this happens, he said it's frustrating for residents who look to us for answers and we do not have them, we need to be able to get the information to the public. A SPRC committee meeting was scheduled for the first meeting in January, the 14th at 6:30 prior to the regular council meeting. Mr. Simpson stated it took him 45 minutes on the phone to find out there was an alert system people could sign up for online. Mr. Cohen would like to see us have a number we could call to get up to date info that we could give to our first responders. Manager Monteleone said they could not get hold of anyone at that time, but that he would ask our representative if there was a specific person we could contact. Mr. Walker asked about buildings that would have automatic generators, Monteleone said the school has a generator that can light the buildings but not heat them and after checking with all of the churches with luck that is why they used our Fire Department along with Negley and New Waterford as warming stations. Mr. Todd asked Monteleone to see if our Ohio Edison rep could attend the meeting.

DEVELOPMENT: NO REPORT

UTILITY: Mr. Todd stated they had a first meeting with Marucci & Gaffney and they were going to work on a construction schedule.

FINANCE: NO REPORT

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMITTEES ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: Jerry Coblentz, Chief Jim Brown, Chief Josh Brown, Mark McTrusty, Rev. Barry Walker, Katie White, and Officer Garrett Anderson

LEGISLATION: Mr. Simpson introduced Res. 14-2018 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **A resolution authorizing the acceptance of funds from the Columbiana county Board of Commissioners to be used exclusively for wages and related benefits to permit the Village Police Department to assign an officer to the Columbiana County Drug Task Force.** Mr. Simpson called for a vote on Res.14-2018. Mr. Cohen-y, Mr. .Hall-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Todd-y, Mr. Walker-y and Mr. Yokley-y. 6 yes to. Pass. Mr. Simpson made a motion to table Res. 15-2018 seconded by Mr. Cohen, all in favor. Mr. Simpson introduced Ord. 12-2018 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. .Cohen. . **An ordinance adopting the appropriation for the current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of East Palestine, Ohio during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019 and adopting estimated resources and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Simpson introduced Ord. 13-2018 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager to enter into a contract with David P. Powers to serve as the Municipal Attorney for a one year term commencing January 1, 2019 In accordance with the contract attached hereto as exhibit A.** Mr. Simpson introduced Ord. 14-2018 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Cohen. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROVISION OF THE INCOME TAX CODE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF EAST PALESTINE, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE OF ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT (0.5%) TO THE PERMANENT 1.0% INCOME TAX; INCOME TAX INCREASE TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2020; AND AMENDING SECTION 882.01(B)(1) (FORMER ORDINANCE 880.02) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, ALL SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE ELECTORS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF EAST PALESTINE, OHIO, AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION, ON THE MAY 7, 2019, BALLOT.** Mr. Yokley asked if a meeting was still planned to discuss this income tax issue, Manager Monteleone said it was and it would also be to go over the budget. A Special Council meeting was called for Monday December 3 at 6pm to discuss the pending income tax increase and the budget. Mr. Yokley also stated it had been previously discussed for the increase funds to be specifically earmarked for certain things, specifically 25% for police and 25% and fire and he did not see that wording in the legislation. Manager Monteleone said that was what was discussed and that the details as to how it can be done would be a question for Atty. Powers. Manager Monteleone and Mr. Cohen both agreed that if there is a way to earmark this money from the increase for specific purposes that we should do it. In addition to taking the question as to how it can be done to Atty. Powers, Finance Director Traci Thompson stated she would contact the Auditors and as them. Mr. Cohen also pointed out Council is not enacting the tax increase; this is just setting in motion the process of putting the question on the ballot and asking the public for the increase.

ADJOURN: At this point Mr. Simpson invited everyone to the Christmas Parade this Saturday December 1 at 7PM. Mr. Cohen then made a motion to adjourn seconded by seconded by Mr. Walker. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

ALAN COHEN ACTING MAYOR